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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 18 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the local inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in the second half of June 1996.

16 June 1996

Ali Abdu Diya, a journalist residing in the town of Khiyam, was arrested by Israeli forces.

19 June 1996

At 1400 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

20 June 1996

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

At 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur area at low altitudes.

At 1600 hours the hills to the south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 1800 hours Israeli artillery fire was directed at the Mashgharah - Ayn al-Tinah road, the Ayn al-Hijlah locality and Mahniyah. Serious damage was done to the electricity network, and windows were broken in some homes.

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24 June 1996

At 2045 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 2100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and its neighbouring camps at low altitudes.

At 2145 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

25 June 1996

At 1700 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2030 hours the Iqilm al-Tuffah heights came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area by Israeli warplanes.

26 June 1996

At 1200 hours the outskirts of Majdal Zun came under Israeli artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jarju' and Arabsalim, areas along the Litani River and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

29 June 1996

At 0600 hours rockets began falling in the Hasbayya area.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Libbaya in the western Bekaa came under Israeli artillery fire. The shelling affected the towns of Zillaya, Yuhmur, Maydun, Suhmur and Qilya and was accompanied by overflights of the western Bekaa area by Israeli warplanes. One unidentified person was killed in the shelling and three persons were injured, namely Haytham Isa, Ghalib Sarhal and Muhammad Qansu. Serious damage was also done to houses in Libbaya and Dallafah, and the Libbaya woodlands were set on fire.

At 0900 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju', the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by low-altitude overflights by Israeli warplanes. The shelling affected the Humin al-Fawqa - Ayn Qana road, causing a number of crop fires in Ayn Qana.

30 June 1996

At 1000 hours a land-mine exploded in the Qati' locality of Mimis township in Rashayya district, seriously wounding Nimr Hammud Ma'lawi in the right leg.

At 1800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim came under artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from Israeli positions in the border strip. A fire broke out and destroyed a 10-dunum area of marshland.

Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory are perpetuating the cycle of violence and causing increased casualties among local inhabitants, particularly children and women. The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation, the fresh attacks and the arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have caused further deaths and injuries and have inflicted further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative